



Consequences of Herders - Farmers Conflict on Food Security in Nigeria: A Review of Literatures on Nigeria 2016-2022

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the consequences of herders- farmers conflict on food security in Nigeria. Herders and farmers conflict has been disastrous and has caused social, political and economic unrest on both the farmers and the herdsmen. The clash between the herdsmen and farmers has placed Nigeria as country of "hotbed" for her citizens to rest on. This conflict has threatened food production, peace and economic activities especially in the rural where the conflict has it grip on. It is pertinent to state that for a society to survive, there is need for the provisions of basic societal

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needs. These needs are security, peace, economic development, shelter and food. Overtime the Nigerian state has been faced with debilitating and cancerous issues of insecurity, which has affected every strata of human existence. Fulani herders and farmers conflict has posed serious threat to the availability of food in Nigeria at large. Aside the threat on food security, there is mass destruction of lives and property. The qualitative method was used for collection of information relevant to this study by using secondary sources which implies gathering of information through the use of Internet, articles, and already written related document on the subject of discourse. The information gotten were analyzed through the use of content analysis. The study focused on the Nigerian state and scope of analysis covers from 2016-2022. The study adopted the frustration-aggression theory. The theory reveals that conflict occur in the society when ones interest is threatened and the inability to achieve this interest result into conflict, which is the situation with herders and farmers. Furthermore the consequences of the conflict was revealed, a snapshot scenario of some selected states like Ebonyi and Benue state was discussed, the mechanisms (measures) to resolve the conflict was discussed. Based on the findings it was discovered that, the conflict has tremendous effect on the lives of the people as well as on their properties. Hence, Recommendations were made to curtail random movement by the herdsmen and the cattle, the government should set aside areas for their grazing to be monitored by the agent of the government in such local community.

Keywords: Consequences; conflict; fulani herders; farmers; food security.

1. INTRODUCTION

Conflict remains one of the major challenges bedeviling Nigerian society as well as African continent aside poverty, as it threatens the sovereign state of Nigeria and the people within. Omah (2022) writes "conflict is pervasive and inevitable because whenever people interacts there is always possibility of the emergence or manifestation of conflicts". Therefore, conflict is an indispensable phenomenon in the family, state, and of course society. One fundamental factor that triggers conflict in society is interest. It could be correct to opine that interest is the driving instrument of conflict. Fulani herders and farmer conflict, Boko Haram, banditry, communal conflicts has taken grip of the Nigerian society and it is altruism that this conflict obviously serve as a threat to food availability, socio-economic development, lives and property.

To reiterate, the issue between the nomadic and farmers is that of interest. In fact Interest is the "mother" of most conflict in Nigeria. This conflict is mostly orchestrated as a result of the trampling and trespassing of the herders with their cattle along the farm paths, which without doubt, the cattles destroys crops in the farms as a result of no proper or negligence in the control of the cattle by the herders. The losses is not onesided, it has grave significance on the two conflicting groups. In 2010 through 2013, Fulani cattle breeders has murdered about 80 persons. The 2014 statistic shows that about 1229 persons were killed. GTI opines that the group has

claimed 1200 deaths, this records placed the herders group as the fourth dangerous group (Ezemenaka and Ekumaoko, 2018).

It is also pertinent to note that in different part of the country, the dispute has accounted for tolls of many demised persons, spoilage of food products and rendered many affected homeless. Some regions, if not all in the country has encountered this situation. The South East, with records in Ebonyi, Enugu, Anambra, Abia and Imo state, in places like Plateau, Nasarawa, Benue, Niger state all of the North Central Nigeria, other regions like South South, North East, and North West are not spared (Emmanuel Uzodinma, 2021). Without the usage of a prism one would agree that the herders and farmer's crisis has traveled through like the "threat" and "niddle" in the Nigerian society, this has spilled out socioeconomic backwardness, hunger, starvation and unemployment.

In conflicting arena, the condlict has a cross-sectional effect, this is because areas where this conflict has it stings on witness slow food production and supply of food and as well thwarts business growth. For instance those at the urban areas who hardly cultivate for lack of land suffers immensely of starvation. This conflict has it roots more on the rural dwellers of course than those at the urban areas. The conflict is no longer a "night mare", rather it is now a reality to contend with.

In some part of the country the conflict has ruined many people source of survival and

increases unemployment also. The adverse effect of the conflict is mostly felt on the lives of people who are prone to hunger, starvation and homeless as well, this is because the conflict has resulted in to quantum damages of crops including houses in the communities. Planting season and harvest period are two critical times for farmers and so, by the destruction of farms during this period of course triggers serious quarrel, whereby if not control would be devastating and would lead to carrying of light weapons and arms against each other. This crisis has large consequences on food security. Food security means making or enablement of food to be available; it is concern with the making or provisions of food for human and societal sustainability. The absence of it (food) is food insecurity which the resultant effect is hunger and starvation. Hunger and starvation later on could lead to the perpetration of more crimes especially by the teenagers and youths in general. Food security in Nigeria is a very critical aspect of human existence, this is why the government needs to swindle into actions on how to tackle the incidence (Okoro JP. 2018).

According to Okolie and Atelhe (2014). These scholars opine that "the farmers and herders conflict remain the major issue in Nigeria and it has assume dangerous with magnitude of consequences on agricultural productivity. The rationale for the crisis is traceable to the policy gap and underdevelopment of grazing lands, land ownership and utilization system, this is because of the increase in population, climate change, arm robbery, poverty. The crisis has exposed the populace homeless, and has shattered ambitions and dreams of people (Fasona et al., 2016).

1.1 Statement of the Problem

The food insecurity posed as a result of the crisis is a problem of concern to Nigeria government and stakeholders. The competition over few available resources forms the stratum or bedrock of such conflicts, the struggle to protect farm land and farm produce by the farmers and the fulani herders to protect their cattle has been a serious contest between the rival group. At the time the country was struggling to liberate itself from the "tooth" and "horns" of Boko Haram that she was held to, Fulani herders- farmers conflict surfaces. It is pitiable for the Nigerian society as every of it strata has suffered setback. Insecurity is the

most challenging phenomenon after poverty and corruption.

The socioeconomic, health, and education progress of the country has decline. Fajonyomi argued that the conflict has infringed alot of pains and tears to the rural dwellers most especially as the crisis has reulted into "seeking" and "hiding" by the herders and farmers. There would be food availability when they lives of the farmers are adequately protected (Fajonyomi et al., 2018). For many years Nigeria has been seriously threatened by herders and farmers clashes which have been exacerbated in recent years. It has therefore been considered to be a major potential threat affecting Nigerians mostly on the part of agricultural activities in the country.

From the above explication, there is an indication that the herders crisis has amounted to a breakdown of progress by farmers in Nigeria as they (farmers) are been aggravated with fears. The constant destruction of vital economic crops like rice, cassava, Yam, vegetables, would prone Nigeria to "hunger capital" of the world if not curtail timely. It is base on the foregoing explication that this study is carried out to investigate the consequences of herders and farmers crisis on food security in Nigeria.

1.2 Research Questions

1. What consequences does the conflict has on food availability?
2. What triggers the conflict?
3. What are the mechanisms to employ to resolve the conflict?

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Fulani Herders and Farmers Conflict in Nigeria: A Concise Exploration

Insecurity has been a serious challenge in Nigeria, every year comes with it insecurity peculiarity, this issue has devastating effect in all spheres of the Nigerian society. The economic and social aspect of human is threatened as a result of the constant attacks on lives and property. Fulani herders in Nigeria are cattle rearers who travels across the length and breadth of the Nigerian society in search of greener pastures for their livestock. This journey of course has resulted into constant friction between the host community and the herdsmen.

Conflict has been a constant and pressing situation in Africa, with a large impact on socioeconomic development and food security. Nigeria as a point of focus has equally been confronted with the debilitating presence of conflict which has engendered lives and property. The most dreaded conflict confronting the Nigerian society is the herders-farmers conflict, after the Boko Haram insurgency. The activism by the herders has resulted to food shortage in the country.

Tyubee (2006) affirms that the contest was due to the struggle for access and utilization of land resources, especially water, and pasture. Farmers and herders can be explained in the context peasant and nomadic economic creation upheld by the groups. Lack of access to good arable pastures in the northern part of Nigeria for the cattle to feed upon, forms the thrust of the movement or migration of the herders in search of greener pastures. They moved towards the South East and South South region of Nigeria.

Ayorinde, Olokun and the News Magazine of October 14, 2016 indicates that community like Nimbo in Enugu State has clashed with the herders in the quest to protect their cultivated lands and water resources. This community was attacked on the account of cattle rustling and protection of an indigene who allegedly murdered a Fulani man. The most disturbing stage of the crisis lies on the sophisticated ammunition possessed by this Fulani fellows who claims the possession of such ammunition was to guide against the farmers from attacking them alongside their cattle.

In an effort to curtail the conflict the Grazing Routes Bill was initiated, this bill could not bring confidence on the people rather it raised an eyebrow by the non-moslem of an attempt to use government apparatus to islamize the country and to dispossess the original indigene of their land which is an ancestral inheritance. When this is achieved according to Nwankwo, the original people of the land would live at the mercy of the Fulani herders (Nwankwo, 2016).

2.2 Consequences of Food Insecurity in Nigeria

Most scarring aspect of herders-farmers conflict aside the claims of lives, is its devastating consequences on food security. Food is an essential commodity to human and this is why the agricultural sector always draws out blueprint on how to improve and make food available. The

enemy to this food availability is the ceaseless conflict that has existed overtime between the rival groups that is Fulani herders and the farmers.

Conceptually, food security has plethora definition, but what is most peculiar in this diverse of definition is that all definitions point out that food security is the making of food available, accessible and affordable. Communities that are highly affected by the crisis witnessed poor feeding ability for lack of adequate food, in this case, some people indulge into stealing from other people's yam bans, and harvest cassava either to sell or to make food to sustain a living. Food is one of the most essential items a community, state or nation need, in fact the need for food can not be quantified.

"Nigeria is under a severe internal and security threat as the threat has political, economic and environmental dimensions. Each of these dimensions has critically affected the stability of the nation and can be traced to many factors in which the Fulani-herdsmen appears to be major factor. Most worrisome in the present development is the pillaging, raping, killing and kidnapping by the so-called Fulani herdsmen. Stories are found in the national dailies on daily basis of how these shepherds strategically attack several communities and houses, with sophisticated assault guns-AK-47" (Mathias, 2021).

The killing as a result of the conflict by the two rivals has been described as "uncalled for" (Okereke, 2012, Bello, 2013). This conflict has recorded issues of rape cases, murdering and general damages on humans and the host communities, the conflict has forced many to relocate to different areas for safety and security purpose. The government therefore needs to act timely on the various policy initiated towards ameliorating the conflict to guarantee the protection of lives and property.

From the studies conducted by Okereke (2012) and Kasarachi (2016) Shows that, there is massive loss of lives, valuable properties and destruction of vast expanse of arable agricultural farmlands thereby posing serious threat to food security since farmers for fear of attack could no longer go to farm and harvest their farm produce. The attacks by Fulani herdsmen are on the upsurge, with the most latest attacks that have occurred in states like Benue, Taraba, Nasarawa and few cases of attack in other states.

The consequences of the conflict on food security is, it has destroy farm lands and also many cattle killed, the conflict has led to hunger and starvation, and if not properly handle, in time to come Nigeria would become the world capital of "hunger and starvation", and as stated within the context of this paper earlier on, hunger and starvation would breed crime, because people would want to sort for an alternative means of survival. Aside the food security, socioeconomically, the conflict has destroy a lot of economic asset and create unemployment.

In Ebonyi, Benue, Nasarawa and other states of the Federation farming is a vital aspect of life of the people, they are known for rice, yam, maize, cassava cultivation etc. This serve as source of livelihood for many, some persons get involved in menial jobs by working in the farm to earn a living. It would be a traumatic situation for them to lose their jobs to cattle's destruction of farm land. On the other hand the available food items would be sold at an astronomical rate, the food prices skyrocket and which becomes difficult to afford or buy.

According to the writings of Adams, Atelhe and Emmanuel (2017) they describes the crisis as alarming. They further opine that the "crisis has a negative impact that has led to loss of lives and properties". The damages or destruction as a result of the crisis is hardly recovered and the lost of lives has traumatic effect on the people involved, especially, those who has been turned to widowers, widows, orphans and forceful migration or change of location by the people. With the recurring poverty records orchestrated by the conflict it exposed the displaced persons to diseases.

Aside the impact of the crisis on food availability, the impact of this conflict is felt on manufacturing industry and the economy in general. During and after the conflict the manufacturing industry suffered immensely for lack of materials for production process as a result of the already destroy materials, most of this materials are gotten from the Crisis ridden rural areas. Those at the urban areas are prone to hunger and starvation due to lack of food supply from the rural areas, at times the available food items becomes expensive for purchase. This also affect the supply of beef in the market, the few available meat would be sold at astronomical prices.

More specifically, accorrding to Kofastudy.com the negative effect of conflict are explained below (kofastudy.com):

1. Loss of lives and damages properties: In every conflict situation the threat to life is maximum especially in conflict where it involves violence. Both groups feels threatened and take up arms for protection as a result many lost their lives and properties.
2. Underdevelopment: one of the consequences of the conflict is mass underdevelopment of the country. As both group flex muscle the resultant effect is destruction. This destruction impinge development. Inveestors hardly invest in conflicting arena for fear of losing their investment. The economic implication of this is that the economy suffer set back that breeds in underdevelopment.
3. Disunity in any society, be it religious, communal, or group conflict, it brings about disunity. People who are in disagreement like the "Fulani herders and farmers", brought about disunity. A crisis ridden society lack harmony as a result of the disunity among the religious fraternity, individuals, rival groups in the society.
4. Anarchy: This is a situation of lawlessness, a society experiencing conflict would lack law and orderliness . This lawlessness may introduce the possession of ammunitions used illegally to perpetrate evils.
5. Hardship: After the conflict situation, hardship surfaces, the displaced people at the Internal Displaced Persons camps (IDPs) lack nutritious food or sometimes have nothing to eat at all. Even those who are not in camps, equally suffer the aftermath of the crisis.

2.3 Causes and Fuelers of the Conflict

Hardly is there any conflict without fuelers and causes. Every conflict is preponderance on an issue of interest. The conflict could be struggling over scarce resources and values in society. Analyzing the causes of conflict Ofem and Inyang (Ofem et al., 2014) identified the cause of the conflict in Cross River State as a result of the destruction of farms by the cattle, contamination of water, indiscriminate defecation by cattle. The Fulani's on their part channel the reason for the conflict to the harassment received by them and their women by the host communities.

Some causes of conflicts between farmers and herders. They described the causes of conflicts between farmers and herdsmen in Cross River

State of Nigeria by asserting that the continuous conflicts between farmers and herdsmen are mostly as a result of the destruction of farmland by the cattle. They further stated that the contamination of water by the cattle, overgrazing by the cattle, and indiscriminate defecation by the cattle have not in any way helped to resolve the problem. They also pointed to the hydra headed causes of the conflict by noting that on the part of the herdsmen, they have disregard for the traditional authority of their host communities. On the part of host community, they stated that the host communities usually harassed the herdsmen and their women.

O.O. Adebayo and Olaniyi (2008), they argued that the conflict was as a result of the constant trampling on farm lands. This trampling destroys crops and other farm produce. Similarly, in an empirical study conducted by Musa (2014) shows that the conflict has plethora problems which has affected both sides (farmers and herdsmen). As a result of the overgrazing of cattle on farm lands by the cattle and act of encroaching grazing reserves, water holes and and cattle paths by the farmers are the major causes of the conflict between the farmers and herdsmen.

Other possible fuelers (causes) of the herdsmen-farmers' crisis are briefly explain below.

- a) **Cattle theft:** on the part of the herdsmen the major cause of the conflict or crisis is as a result of stealing of cattle by the their just communities. In order to protect their belongings (cattle) they need to be well armed and equipped to resist against attack or reprisal attack.
- b) **The lack of resources:** The lack of arable land and water resources in the far north form another causes or fueller of the crisis. The search for land for the farmers and Fulani herdsmen to utilized triggers and skyrocketed the conflict situation in Nigeria. Therefore, Ismaila and Umar (2015) agreed with the foregoing that "the disagreements over the use and allocation of land and resources such as grazing areas between cattle breeders and farmers are excruciating as a result of the interest harboured by both parties.
- c) **Unauthorized entering into farmlands:** The encroachment of the herdsmen and their

Cattle into host community's farmlands has become a major issue of the conflict. This unauthorized entering results into destroying of farm produce as a result of probably negligence on the part of the herdsmen.

- d) **Climate change:** The harsh and unfriendly weather condition in the northern part of the country and lack of good pastures and the ever presence of drought prompt the herdsmen to traveled or migrate south wards of Nigeria in search for greener pastures for their cattle which is their source of livelihood.

2.4 A Snapshot of Few Selected States in Nigeria

a) **Ebonyi State:** Just like in other part of the country, the destruction of lives and property in Ebonyi state is not different; the scenario in Ebonyi state is same as that in Benue state and the likes. Aside the communal conflict challenge faced by Ebonyi state another challenge is the infiltration of "unwanted"(Herdsmen) in Ebonyi state. The state just like Nasarawa, Benue, Kogi state has been in companion with hostility resulting into fear and anxiety. Of course a hostile environment or community hardly records progress in all ramifications.

The conflict in Ebonyi state has spread like wild fire, it has affected areas like Afikpo, Izzi, Ezza, Ivo and Ezzillo. The continue crisis in this zone has displaced numerous people whom some have lost their lives and source of livelihood. The implication of this destruction is that those who loans money to develop or cultivate their rice farms ended up having nothing to harvest to pay back their loans, this has caused terminal illness to some people. Buttressing this idea, Punch news (Nnachi, 2020) reports that a native of Ebonwan Edda community in Afikpo Local Government Area narrated that the cattle has destroy about two hectares of his rice farm.

He narrated thus; *"It all started around November 2019 as I was preparing to harvest rice from my farm in the Oso Edda community, when I noticed that Fulani herdsmen had destroyed about two out of the three hectares the night before. On getting to the farm that morning, I discovered that herdsmen had entered the farm the previous night and their cows had trampled on the ripened rice. For some minutes, I wept and asked them why they did this kind of thing, because they were still on the farm and were very relaxed. One*

of them said I better shut up my mouth or they would beat me up. As I was talking to the other, another one was already bringing out his dagger to attack me".

The situation has resulted into different rape cases and murdering as well. In a quest to solve the situation the then Governor of the state, Engineer Dave Umahi ban grazing in the affected areas and set up committee to investigate the issue. Due to the massive destruction recorded in the state there is bound to be an excruciating hunger and starvation presence in the state.

b) Benue State: Herders and farmers crisis in Benue state is also destructive. Despite the fact that Benue State remains "food basket of the nation" food scarcity would loom the state as a result of the damages on food or crop items. The conflict in this state as been described as a long antecedent crisis traced to the event that lead to the killing of a Fulani man by the Tiv farmers. The aftermath of the conflict has resulted into revenge.

Benue state has recorded scores of demise people including men, women, children and elderly people . It is believe that anyone who tries to resist or stand as a stormy block to the herdsmen pays dearly for it. This acts scared so many farmers of going about doing their daily farm activities. From the exploration given by Duru in vanguard news paper (Peter, 2016) the crisis has claimed about one hundred persons life whom were slaughtered in communities like Ukura, Gafa, Per and Tse- Gusa in Logo Local Government Area of the state. The incident was a panorama it destroys houses, yam bans, economic trees, farm huts, farm land and crops. In a Oju Local Government Area, Six persons along side a police officer of the rank of an Assistant Superintendent of Police were killed in Idele village.

From the painted scenario of Ebonyi state, we would appreciate that, aside the narratives or account given by various indigenes of some parts of the conflict affected areas in Ebonyi state, there is peculiarity in related event across the country, which is the damages of lives and farm land other properties. The government of Benue and Ebonyi state as well as the government of the federation should set measures on how to handle the conflict to avoid food insecurity and further damages to the economic development of the country.

2.5 Mechanisms Employ in Resolving the Situation

The adverse nature of the conflict is so consuming and devastating on the socioeconomic environment of Nigeria. The government of the federation has adopted different measures in resolving this conflict. Different scholars have put down their thoughts on how to resolve the conflict. Gyong (1998) advocated for the use of traditional method or approach in resolving the or settling the dispute between the two rivals. In this approach just like in the time past, the monarch assemble the rival groups through their representatives to settle the dispute.

Another suggestion was raised by Bello (2013) he advocated that government of the federation should initiate policies or framework to enable the herders secure the right to land use in order to reduce insecurity and mitigate the frequently occur crisis. In a the ideas of Fumilayo (2019) provided another solution that the police and other security agencies should be proactive in their operations. They should be assigned to different post and create more checking point in the communities affected to keep surveillance.

Other measures are explained below:

- 1. use of Armed Security Personnel:** As one of the effort made by the government to curtails the crisis, the government of the federation deployed security personnel to the warring area or environment to checkmate and handle the security challenges bothering such environment. The conflict or crisis in Benue, Ebonyi, Nasarawa, Abia , Enugu, Kogi and a host of states has faced this unwholesome act needs intellectual security personnels in handling the situation.
- 2. Creation of grazing reserve bill 2016:** The crisis between these groups creates the initiation of the grazing reserve bill. It is belief that the bill would help to ameliorate the conflict by creating a stoppage to the rapid intrusion of herdsmen and cattle into farmlands.
- 3. Banned of open grazing policy:** By means of putting to an end the long lasting crisis in different parts of the country . Some state government and their house of

assemblies enacted legislation that frown and opt against open grazing in their states. The action by various state government is a medium to create the long awaiting peace, as this prohibits cattle rearers from grazing openly which would reduced to a great extent the unwarranted trampling into farmlands.

3. THEORETICAL EXPLANATION

3.1 Frustration- aggressive Theory

Frustration- aggression hypothesis is a popular theory that helps to explicate the relationship between two incompatible groups, it explore the rationale for violence actions as displayed as a result of aggression. Understanding the crisis between this two groups is very pertinent, it is best described using the frustration- aggression theory. The theory helps to explain the actions behind the conflict between the farmers and herders.

The theory states that individuals or group of individuals always revoke when there is an

indication of friction to their heart desires or interest. The theory was propounded by John Dollard and his associates in 1939 but was further modified by Yate in 1962 and Berkowitz in 1963, which was draws mainly from psychological basis of motivation and behaviour (Ogege, 2013, Herdsmen's killings, 2021).

Specifically, when an individual becomes aggressive is as a result of the frustration such a person has encountered overtime. The aggressive behavior exhibited tends to infringe on the right of the other person(s). The theoretical analogy of this magnitude, revealed the rationale for the attack by herders against the farmers. This theory stipulates that at the quest by the herders to provide pastures for their cattle of encountered or witnessed any obstruction to that effect sprawled up aggression, this act is equally noticed on the aspect of the farmers whereby when crops are been trampled on by cattle it spores anger in return. The attack is two sided, both groups display aggression in various ways when there is a threat to their apacific interest.

Table 1. Fulani herders and farmers conflict in Nigeria from 2016-2022

S/N	Date	Attack And Location	Immediate Causes(S) 2016	Causalities
1.	January 6	Udeni Ruwa, Nasarawa State	Destruction of farm crops	38 people killed and many wounded
2.	January 17	Garezi village in Taraba State		3 people were reportedly killed
3.	January 23	Demsare, Wunamokoh, Dikagam and Tabungo of Adamawa State		60 people including a police DPO was killed and properties destroyed
4.	February 2	Agatu, Benue State	Reprisal attack	7 people were killed, the community thrown into mourning
5.	February 7	Tombu in Buruku LGA, Benue State	A clash between the two parties	10 persons were killed and the community was raided
6.	February 11	Abbi, Enugu State		2 persons were killed and some were declared missing
7.	February 2	A village in Agatu, Benue State		50 deaths recorded
8.	February 24/28	Agatu Benue State	Reprisal attack against the killing of a prominent Fulani man by the people of Agatu in 2013	500 persons were killed and wounded. Others were displaced
9.	March 2	Ossissa, Ndokwa, Delta State		4 persons killed, some wounded and residents forced to flee their homes as houses were destroyed
10.	March 7, 8, 13, & 17	Mbaya-Tombo, Benue State	Dispute and destruction of farm crops	Over 35 persons died and properties were destroyed
11.	March 26	Ugwunesi in Awgu Local Government Area Enugu State	Reprisal attack	2 soldiers, 18 others killed. Thousands displaced and more than 1000

S/N	Date	Attack And Location	Immediate Causes(S) 2016	Causalities
				homesteads destroyed.
12.	April 25	Nimbo (Nimbo Ngwoke Ugwuijoro, Ekwuru, Ebor, Enugu Niimbo, Umuome and Ugwua chara) villages in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area		48 deaths recorded. Ten residential houses and a church were also burnt in addition to vehicles, motorcycles and domestic animals
13.	April 3-7	Ohali-Elu, Rivers state	Clash with communities	16 people were killed
14.	April 9	Ilado, Ondo State	Hon. Olu Falae, Former SGF was attacked by herdsmen and they killed his security guard	Herdsmen attacked and killed the security guard of Chief Falae
15.	April 10	Dovi & Mesuma Village Gashaka Local Government Area Taraba State		15 persons were killed, razing of houses.
16.	April 10	Angai, Dashole, Dovi & Mesuwa Villages of Taraba State.	Farm Land dispute	Between 15 and 44 people were killed
17.	April 20	Agatu, Benue State	Police men attacked	Some people were injured and a policeman was declared missing
18,	April 25	Ndiagu Attakwu, Nkanu West Local Government Area, Enugu State	Herdsmen entered the heart of the community and a woman sounded a gong, after which the cows scattered. The herdsmen gathered the herds and left, only to return in the night and raided the village.	8 persons were murdered, including a Catholic Church Seminarian and a pregnant woman whose stomach was cut open. Also houses were destroyed
19.	May 2	Benue State		39 were killed
20.	May 6	Corombo, Dan-Anacha and Mutum Biyu communities, Gassol Local Government Area of Taraba State	The killings were allegedly over a land dispute between herdsmen and the Tiv	Reports says the herdsmen burnt 13 houses, killed 12 people and left 80 others seriously injured.
21.	May 14	Illah Community In Oshilili North Local Government Area Of Delta State	Fulani nomads tried rapping a woman and was later beheaded as she resisted	Fulani nomads beheaded a woman and left two others with severe machete wounds.
22.	May 15	Tarfi Village, Binnev Ward in Buruku L.G.A, Benue State		12 persons were reportedly killed, many seriously injured, many missing.
23.	June 25	Koh Community In Girei Local Government Area Of Adamawa State	A Fulani herder trespassed to a farmland and the owner raised alarm, causing the herder to leave and to reappear with his kinsmen who confronted the farmers.	8 persons were killed.
24.	June 17	Logo Local Government Area Of Benue State		10 persons and scores of farmers displaced
25.	June 19	Ossissa Community, Ndokwa East Local Government Area, Delta State.	The victim unknowingly passed through a hideout where the herdsmen were holding hostage, an abducted lawyer and other kidnapped victims when he was shot.	1 person was killed
26.	July 11	Tse-Adayol In Logo Local Government Area, Benue State		81 persons killed
27.	July 12	Gbagyi communities in		Atleast 11 persons have

S/N	Date	Attack And Location	Immediate Causes(S) 2016	Causalities
		Boss Local Government Area of a Niger State.		died after a clash between suspected Fulani Herdsmen and farmers.”
28.	July 25	Tse-Adayol in Logo Local Government Area, Benue State	Grazing rights	10 persons killed, 1 missing and 2 injured.
29.	August 1-3, 13	Golkafa In Jema'a Local Government Area, Adamawa State,		20 persons killed
30.	August 25	Ndiagu Attakwu Akegbe community in Nkanu West Local Government Area.		1 Person Killed, A Seminarian and 5 others were injured.
31.	September 24-26	Godogodo, Kaduna		8 persons slaughtered and wounded 8 others.
32.	October 25	Godogodo, Kaduna		Atleast 40 persons were killed in the attack and many houses burnt.
33.	November 25	Nimbo community of Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area, Enugu State.	Reprisal attack	8 people were massacred (7 men and 1 woman).
34.	December 17	Sabon Gidan Village of Dan Anafa town, Taraba State.	Attack and reprisal	20 feared killed many missing and properties destroyed.
2017				
35.	January 9	Abraka and Obiaruku, both in Ethiopie East and Ukwuani Local Government Area, Delta State.		No fewer than 5 persons were killed.
36.	January 16	Rafin Gona And Gbagyi Villages In Bosso Local Government Area, Niger State.		9 killed, including a police inspector and an ASP of the Nigeria security and Civil Service Defence Corps atleast 6,000 persons displaced.
37.	January 17	Zango-Kataf Local Government Area, Kaduna State.	Herdsman opened fire in Samuru Kataf Market	3 persons were killed and five injured
38.	January 24	Ipiga Village in Ohimin Local Government Area, Benue State.	Grazed cattle and destroyed farm lands	15 persons were killed. A bloody fight that took the lives of two of the herds men and about 13 of the villagers.
39.	January 24	Jema'a Local Government Area, Kaduna State	Commercial car taking students to school from Kafanchan was way laid by alledged herdsmen	5 students of the College of Education, Gidan Wada were shot dead.
40.	February 10	Ruku Mawa Tsafe Local Government Area, Zamfara State.	Clash between community members and suspected herdsmen.	8 people were confirmed dead.
41.	February 11	Southern Kaduna State.	Fulani herdsmen launched attacks on four communities	About 21 people were killed
42.	March 2	Mbahimin community, Gwer East.	Renewed hostilities between herdsmen and farmers in Mbahimin community	No fewer than 10 persons killed.
43.	March 6	Omumu community, Ika South Local Government Area, Delta State	Clash between suspected herdsmen and residents of Omumu community	6 persons killed

S/N	Date	Attack And Location	Immediate Causes(S) 2016	Causalities
44.	March 8	Tse Akaa Mba'Abagi and Tse Orlalu all in Ugondo Mbana, District of Logo Benue State	MACBAN Gololo said that fight erupted between the herders and villagers because some Tiv speaking youths constituted hindrance to the cattle breeders who were not minding their business	15 farmers were killed
45.	March 11	Tiv community is Buruku Local Government Area, Benue State		10 people were killed
46.	March 14	Umuobasikwu Ozuiten Community in Bende Local Government Area, Abia State	Clash between herdsmen and the people of Umuobasikwu	1 person was killed and several others injured.
47.	March 20	Zaki Biam in Benue State	Grazing Right Dispute	50 persons were killed.
48.	March 27	Ada, Cillage, Kwande Umuobasikwu, Benue State.	Herdsmen attacked farmers	1 killed, 1 injured, women raped in their farms
49.	March 28.	Emulu Community In Ika South Local Government Area, Delta State	Attack by suspected herdsmen	3 persons were killed while 6 others sustained injuries
50.	April 1	Obio Usiere in Eniong Abatim, Odukpani Local Government Area, Cross River State.	Raid a community	Killed no fewer than 10 persons
51.	May 5	Ussa and Takum council areas of Taraba State	Clash between farmers and herdsmen	15 persons dead, many sustained injuries
52.	May 8	Tse-Akaa Village, Ugondo Mbamar District of Logo Local Government Area, Benue State	Clash with herds	3 persons were killed
53.	May 12	Ossissa Community In Ndokwa East Delta State	Farmers who worked with Ugo farm were ambushed on their way home	Suspected herdsmen beheaded a commercial motorcycle rider and 6 farmers
54.	May 13	Logo Local Government Area, Benue State		8 people were killed
55.	May 18	Afam Uku, Oyigbo Local Government Area, Rivers State	Herdsmen attacked	2 people lost their lives
56.	May 22	Ewu Community , Esan Central Local Government Area, Edo State	Herdsmen entered farm land, raped two women and strangled them to death	2 people were killed and 1 was wounded. Corps were destroyed and lot of persons sacked from their farm lands
57.	July 20	Kajuru Village of Kaduna State	Reprisal attacks	33 killed, Fulani properties destroyed.
58.	September 9	Ancha Village , Bassa Local Government Area, Plateau State	Reprisal attack after a boy from the herding community was killed	19 persons were killed
59.	October 16	Nkiedonwhio village, Bassa Local Government Area, Plateau State.		No fewer than 29 people, mostly women and children were killed.
60.	October 27	Irigwe Kingdom, Bassa Local Government Area Of Plateau State		No fewer than 75 people were killed, 23 others injured, about 13,726

S/N	Date	Attack And Location	Immediate Causes(S) 2016	Causalities
				persons displayed and 489 houses burnt.
61.	October 30	Yendi	Attack and reprisal attack	3 persons were feared dead.
62.	November 3	Tombo ward, Gaambetiev in Logo Local Government Area, Benue Stae	Grazing law reactions	1 killed, 1 injured
63.	November 21	Kikan, Kwadomti and Sheferan Villages of Numan Local Government Area, Adamawa State	A reprisal attack 52 herdsmen killed	52 herdsmen were killed
64.	December 4	Five villages in Adamawa State	Herdsmen avenged the killing of 51 of their members in Kikan	86 people lost their lives and property destroyed
65.	December 28.	Minda, Lau Local Government Area Of Taraba State	Herdsmen grazed on farmer's guinea corn farm and he complained	4 people killed, farm lands destroyed
66.	December 31.	Gaambe- Tiev, Ayilamo and Turan communities all in Logo Local Government Area, Benue State	Fulani herdsmen invaded the communities	50 people including nine members of the Benue State livestock Guards were killed.
2018				
67.	January 1	Guma and Logo Local Government Area, Benue State	Reaction to the Benue State anti-grazing law	73 farmers killed while dozens of people were injured and hospitalized
68.	January 23	Ardo Kola, Adamawa State		Gunmen killed family of 9
69.	January 23	Bokkos, Plateau State		Herdsmen killed 7 persons
70.	January 31	Brinin Gwari, Kaduna State		Herdsmen killed 9 persons
71.	February 2	Song, Adamawa State		10 persons were killed
72.	February 5	Herdsmen attack Governor Ortom farmhouse		2 persons were killed
73.	February 6	Obi, Nasarawa State		8 persons were killed
74.	February 8	Shellen, Adamawa State	Communal clash	6 persons were killed.
75.	February 10	Benue State	Herdsmen ambush and killed 2 people officers	Herdsmen ambush and killed 2 police officers.
76.	February 10	Bassa, plateau		3 persons killed
77.	February 11	Jema'a Kaduna		4 persons killed
78.	February 12	Guma. Benue State	Herdsmen attacked civil defense officers	Herdsmen killed 2 civil defense officers
79.	February 26	Kajuru, Kaduna State		Worship center torched and 12 persons were killed
80.	February 27	Demsa, Adamawa State		20 persons killed
81.	March 3	Sardauna Local Government Area of Taraba State	Herdsmen were attacked	15persons lost their lives.
82.	March 5	Omosu Okana Villages in Benue State	Herdsmen reprisal attack	24 persons were killed, many wounded and many missing
83.	March 8	Nzharuvo Village in Bassa Local Government Area, Plateau State.	Herdsmen attacked the village	5 persons killed
84.	March 12	Enyanwu Igwe Village In Ibeagu Community,	Herdsmen attack villages for no known reason	4 persons killed, several houses burnt

S/N	Date	Attack And Location	Immediate Causes(S) 2016	Causalities
		Izzi Local Government Area, Ebonji State		
85.	March 14	Ogane- Enugu and Ikende communities in Dekina Local Government Area of Kogi State	The herdsmen invaded the communities when everyone had slept	25 persons killed, several houses burnt
86.	March 19	Agbenema in Opada/ Ofejiji ward, Omala Local Government Area, Kogi State	Herdsmen invaded community	19 killed, houses burnt
87.	April 12	Janeikyula Village in Wukari Local Government Area, Taraba State		25 persons killed, property worth hundreds of millions of Naira destroyed
88.	April 14 and 16	Several communities across Nasarawa State		32 Tiv villagers killed, many displaces
89.	April 24	St, Ignatius Quasi Parish, Ukpor-mbalom in Ayar-mbalom, Gwer East Local Government Area, Benue State	Herdsmen attacked church	2 catholic Priests and 17 other worshippers killed. Over 100 houses burnt down and people displaced.
90.	April 28	Onocha- olona, Aniocha- North Local Government Area and Ubulu Uku, Local Government Area, Delta State	Minor displacement over destruction of corps by herdsmen's cattle	2 person were killed, in Aniocha-Olona and 6 persons seriously injured in Ubulu-uku
91.	May 25	Yorvo Local Government Area, Taraba State	Reprisal attacks	5 persons were killed
92.	June 4	Dinya village, Gassol of Taraba State	Land resource	4 farmers were killed
93.	June 5	Mararaba Udege and Aisa and Aguma in Nasarawa State.	Agatu man shot a Fulani on his foot and seized his motorcycle, his fellow mobilized and reprised.	3 SARS operatives and 8 farmers were killed by the herdsmen
94.	June 6	Tse Shan, Tse Nyankyume in Saghev Guma Local Government Area and Tse Ngo Jov Tombo Logo Local Government Area		9 persons were killed and over 45 houses set ablaze and several persons missing
95.	June 21 and 23-25	Riyom, Barikin Ladi Plateau State	Decades-long history of violence competition for land resource.	218 persons killed, 5Fulani herders inclusive. 50 houses, 15 motorbikes and 2 vehicles burnt.
96.	July 2018	Yandang Community in Lau Local Government Area	A clash rupted between the Fulani settlers and the Yandang community	73 people were killed and 50 villages were razed
97.	October 2018	Bassa Local Government Area		Fulani herdsmen were killed atleast 19 people died.
98.	December 16	Jema'a Local Government Area. Kaduna State		15 people were killed and 24 others injured at a wedding ceremony.
99.	February 11	Attack on Adara settlement named Ungwar Bardi in Kajuru, Kaduna State	Attack on Adara and reprisal attack by Adara	Fulani gunmen killed11 people. Reprisal attack by Adara targeted settlement of the Fulani killing atleast

S/N	Date	Attack And Location	Immediate Causes(S) 2016	Causalities
				141 people and 65 missing.
100.	March 18	Kajuru Local Government Area, Kaduna State		130 people were killed
101.	January 26 and 27	Villages in Plateau State were attacked		32 villages were murdered in two different attacks by Muslim Fulani herdsmen
102.	November 16	Iddo community in the FCT, Abuja		3 persons were injured in a bloody clash between farmers and herders. Thatched houses were also set ablaze
103.	December 12	Apodun village in Oyo State	The Chief Executive Officer, Kunfayakun Green Treasure Limited, Gatai Aborode was attacked	1 person was killed
104.	March 31	Obeagu community in Ishialu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State	16 persons who were between the ages of 18 and 56 were attacked	The 16 persons were killed. 10 motorcycle were set ablaze
105.	April 14	Umuogudu Akpu Community in Ohaukwu Local Government Area		12 farmers at Umuogudu Akpu Community in Ohaukwu
2022				
106.	January 12	Amaeze Ishiagu in Ivo Local Government Area, Ebonyi State	Suspected Fulani herdsmen have attacked Amaeze Community	3 persons were killed
107.	May 24	Amaeze in Ivo Local Government Area, Ebonyi State	A farmer, Mr. Okeke Nkemjika was butchered	1 person was killed
108.	Mach-June 12	Benue State		92 death were recorded
109.	April 11-12	Guma Local Government Area, Benue State	Fulani herdsmen attack Guma	25 were killed and 10 injured

Sources: Okoro J.P (2018)[21]; and Authors Compilation from online newspaper publications

4. METHODOLOGY

The research adopted the qualitative research method. This method gave the researcher the opportunity to explore and extract information from extant literature through the utilization of Internet, newspaper online publications and journals. Information gotten concentrates on events of the herders and farmers crisis covering 2016-2022.

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From various exploration of scholarly postulations, and data analysis from 2016-2022, reveals that the conflict has created a lot of damages on the citizen's lives including their pro properties. Of course, if adequate measures are not taken it would escalate to a more or worst situation. This has destroyed farm produces and farms and the resultant effect is massively felt on

socioeconomic development, national security, and food security.

The insecurity posed within the hostile states would drive away foreign investors and fear of establishing capital projects and of course this would cause a break in economic development and property of the country in entirety. Another effect is felt on the high unemployment rate that the conflict has caused and those who hold farming as an occupation would be displayed, in the housing aspect, a lot has lost their buildings to the conflict.

The various analysis tabulated below shows that the conflict has destroy properties including farm produces and it is when the mechanisms provided herein are been considered, that the conflict situation would be minimize.

6. DATA ANALYSIS

Analysis of the attacks and destruction caused by the conflict are analyzed in a tabular form.

7. CONCLUSION

Conflict served as threat to the development of the society. The consequences of the protracted crisis or conflict has been devastating, this conflict has caused a lot of damages on farm crops resulting into hunger and acute starvation. This crisis has lead to the destruction of crops like rice, cassava, maize, yam, guinea corn e.t.c. The constant attack scared farmers from going into their farms to cultivate and on the part of the Fulani herders, they find it difficult to go in search of greener pastures for their cattle. From all indications, the crisis has adverse effect on both the herders and farmers.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Since conflict cannot be separated from man existence, it can be reduce. To curtail the friction between the herdsmen and farmers the various recommendations are made.

1. State government should set aside areas for cattle to graze to avoid random movement this it would reduce trespassing along farm path.
2. A peace resolution committee should be set in the local areas to address the situation.
3. The leaders of the Fulani herders should sensitized their Subjects on how to relate with their host community to avoid constant attack.
4. The community leaders should preach peace and advocate for cordial relationship between the farmers and the herders.
5. Security agency should be at alert to checkmate all Fulani herders entering the state to disarm them, in case they are in possession of ammunition.

DISCLAIMER (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)

Author(s) hereby declare that NO generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models (ChatGPT, COPILOT, etc) and text-to-image generators have been used during writing or editing of this manuscript.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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